

I CLAIM:

1. A method for making payments on the Internet, comprising:

a user obtaining a unique ID from a Service Provider when said user

wants to make a payment on the Internet;

said user communicating said ID to a vendor in place of a credit card;

5 and

said vendor completing or rejecting the transaction by communicating
with said Service Provider.

2. The method of claim 1, the method further comprising said user

registering with said Service Provider and obtaining a Client from said service

Provider all prior to the step of a user obtaining a unique ID.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein before the step of completing the transaction, said method further comprising:

said Service Provider validating said unique ID and account balances of said user and completing said payment only if said unique ID is valid and has not expired and said user balances are adequate; and

said Service Provider sending acceptance to the vendor.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein before the step of rejecting the transaction, the method further comprising said Service Provider validating said unique ID and account balances of said user and sending a rejection to said vendor if said user balances are inadequate or said unique ID is invalid or has expired.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said ID has a preset timeout, wherein after said preset timeout expires, said ID will not be approved by said Service Provider, and once used, said ID will not be approved again by said Service Provider.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein said Service Provider Client has at least one mode of operation selected from the group consisting of a notification mode, a confirmation mode, a card reader mode and a recurring payment mode.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising operating said Client in said notification mode, wherein anytime a vendor requests validation of an ID, said Service Provider notifies said user.

8. The method of claim 6, further comprising operating said Service Provider client in said confirmation mode, wherein anytime said vendor requests validation of a ID generated by said user, a confirmation is requested from said user, wherein only after said user authorizes the transaction does said Service Provider provide approval for said transaction.

5 9. The method of claim 6, further comprising operating said Client in said card reader mode, wherein said Client works only after said user inserts a service card into a special reader attached to a PC.

10. The method of claim 6, further comprising operating said VCSP client in said recurring payment mode, wherein recurring payment information needed to complete a recurring transaction is stored at said Service Provider, wherein a request from said vendor that provides a previously used ID acts as a
5 trigger for said recurring transaction.

11. The method of claim 2, wherein said Client has the capability to record payment details into desktop or web-based personal finance tools.

12. The method of claim 2, wherein said Client is a separate application interacting with a browser.

13. The method of claim 2, wherein said Client comprises code running on a browser.

14. The method of claim 2, wherein said Client is entirely web based.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein said Service Provider includes a server that stores user settings.

16. A method for completing a secure e-commerce transaction between a customer and a vendor, both connected to a network, while protecting information even if vendor's security is breached and providing end-to-end user control, comprising:

- 5 obtaining a single use ID from a Service Provider (SP) when a customer is ready to place an order;
- transmitting said ID to a vendor in place of credit card information or bank account information of said customer;
- sending information from said SP to said customer system when said vendor requests payment and taking user confirmation; and
- 10 sending acceptance/rejection to said vendor from said SP after validating customer balances.